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COUNTRY Western Germany

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Military Information from the Templin Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT July and 1 to 15 August 1952

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DATE PREPARED

19 September 1952

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REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. During the period from 1 to 6 August 1952, training with 76.2-mm field guns, rocket launchers, 37-mm AA guns and about 50 x 85-mm mortars was observed at the Templin (N 54/U 81) troop training grounds, in the vicinity of Camp Hammelspring. Firing with live ammunition from rifles and machine guns and a driving school with the student drivers wearing gas masks were also observed. During the period from 9 through 15 August, detachments consisting of up to 60 men carrying small arms and field equipment and wearing gas masks marched out. Training with 85-mm mortars, 37-mm AA guns and rocket launchers was continued in the area south of the cemetery at Hammelspring. On 9 August, four JS-1 tanks [redacted] left the camp toward Vietmannsdorf. On 15 August, a convoy of 40 vehicles occupied by about 250 men and armored scout car No 32 and the armored personnel carriers [redacted] entered

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2. At 8 p.m. on 30 July, a convoy of 50 trucks occupied by personnel and towing 76.2-mm field guns, 120-mm mortars and a field kitchen and armored scout cars [redacted] left Templin toward Hammelspring.

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The trucks proceeded toward Camp Hammelspring. At 7:30 p.m. on 14 August, a train loaded with 50 used [redacted] trucks left the Templin railroad station toward Eberswalde (N 53/V 08). The trucks had come from

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[redacted] In early August, [redacted] two-story barracks buildings, each about 150 meters long, were being built in forest section No 210 south of Ca p. Vogelsang. The buildings were about 75 percent completed. (2)

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4. During the period from 23 July to 12 August, [redacted] vehic-
le traffic between Camp Vogelsang and Zehdenick was light. Only small 25X1
detachments of soldiers were seen practicing in the vicinity of the camp.
On 29 and 31 July, two barges loaded with sections of prefabricated
houses and building equipment were being unloaded in Zehdenick. According
to [redacted] the material had come from Potsdam and
was to be sent to the wooded area near Grunewald, east of Vogelsang rail-
road station. The material was hauled away by trucks [redacted] 25X1

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30 July, 1-3rd tanks [redacted] were proceeding on the Storkow-Kappe
(east of Zehdenick) road toward the south.

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5. The cantonment previously observed on the eastern bank of the Gross-
vaetorsee(lake) was still being extended toward the east and, on
2 August, had reached forest section No 59. Sections of prefabricated
houses continuously arrived in this area. [redacted] the
prefabricated houses had come from Camps Vogelsang and Marwespring. 25X1
6. In early July, work on the construction of another cantonment was
started 1 km north-northwest of the Grossvaetorsee. Soviet officers
were repeatedly observed surveying in the area west of this point.
Prior to early July, about 20 low wooden buildings had been erected
south of the Schersee(lake). Soldiers who wore red-bordered black
epaulets with motor transport insignia were seen there.
7. In early July, a lane, about 25 meters wide, was cut through the woods
from the railroad line south of the Vogelsang railroad station.

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[redacted] a railroad line leading
into the interior of Schorfheide (heath) was to be built there. (1)
Prior to 21 July, [redacted] the foundations for two blocks
of barracks buildings, each of them 50 x 17 meters, were being excavated
in forest sections Nos 211 and 212 northwest of the Vogelsang railroad
station. [redacted] the Soviet construction
headquarters supervising this project was located in Fuerstenberg
("Sh/U 52). [redacted] the progress
of the work was checked twice a week by some officers. The project
was being built by the Baumunion Ost in Potsdam. The Baumunion Ost had
given orders that all construction work was to be discontinued in the
fall of this year, no matter whether the project was completed or not.

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[redacted] other barracks installations
were scheduled to be constructed north of Schuetzenfliess. At present,
about 400 workers were employed at this point. The workers were
quartered in low wooden buildings near the Vogelsang railroad station.
The completion date for these new barracks installations was fixed for
about 1 January 1954. (2)

8. In early July, [redacted] NORTH OF Gross Schoene-
beck. The range bordered on forest sections Nos 16 through 30, 120
through 122 and 145 through 147.

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9. During the period from 17 July to 9 August, a troop camp was observed in the wooded area southwest of Grossvaeter. This camp bordered on forest section No 65 to the west. Twelve JS tanks camouflaged with branches were seen there. From the tank tracks observed, [redacted] inferred that the unit had arrived from the east on the Gross Leellnsee-Luckorsee road. Four armored scout cars and 200 tents with a capacity of 6 to 8 men each were also seen there.

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10. In early July, an engineer unit occupied a cantonment of about 35 low wooden buildings in the southern section of the western bank of Leellnsee (lake). Numerous officers, sidecar motorcycles, pontoons and surveying equipment were seen there. About 800 workers with 20 motor saws were engaged in clearing a wooded area of about 2,750 acres. [redacted] the number of workers was to be increased to a total of about 2,000 and their work was to continue for about two years. Four saw frames had been erected for milling the boards to be used for cantonment buildings in the wooded area west of Grossvaeter.

11. Prior to 11 August, [redacted] 25X1 in Prenzlau that three large construction projects designated Friedensbau, were under way at the Templin troop training grounds. One of them near Kannenburg, southwest of Templin, was nearing completion; the second construction project was near Gross Doelln, south of Templin; and the third extended from Kannenburg toward the northwest as far as a point near fuerstenberg.

12. In late July, the restricted area bordered by the localities of Kutschlitz, Klein Leelln, Grossvaeter, Bobrsee, Vietmannsdorf and Grunewald was blocked to through traffic by barbed wire. On 9 August, an exercise by 20 T-34 and JS tanks with an infantry unit was seen at the former Ahlbergsuehle airfield. [redacted]

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13. [redacted] barracks buildings were being constructed near Kannenburg by the Bauunion firm in Potsdam. In mid-August, 150 workers were allegedly employed for this project. (2) [redacted]

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14. Between 6 and 7 p.m. on 26 July, 14 armored personnel carriers, 5 trucks towing 122-mm field howitzers, 39 trucks occupied by personnel including 15 trucks towing AT guns, 2 radio trucks, 5 ammunition carriers loaded with boxes and 2 model BA-64 armored scout cars passed through Templin toward Camp Barnelspring. [redacted]

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At 7 p.m. another convoy of 25 trucks, each occupied by 12 soldiers, and 14 towing 122-mm field howitzers, passed through the town en route for Barnelspring. At 7 p.m. on 31 July, 5 trucks, each mounting a four-barrel AA gun and occupied by 6 men; 4 trucks loaded with ammunition; 2 field kitchens; and 2 tank trucks passed through Templin toward Barnelspring. [redacted]

13. REPORTS

- (1) The report indicates that the Templin troop training grounds was still occupied prior to 15 August 1952 by headquarters units of the 4th Gds Mecz Army, including elements of the 63d A/A Div (US) and components

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of the 6th Pds Div and the 25th Tank Div.
 The training conducted there probably did not exceed battalion level. The motor vehicle convoys seen in connection with this training activity belonged to these units.

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- (2) [redacted] It would require about two years to construct the barracks installations.
 According to the present report and other available information, the barracks installations will be erected near Karrenburg and between Camp Vogelsang and the Vogelsang railroad station.
 It appears that this project is not a first priority but ranks in importance after the troop camp under construction in the Kutschlag-Klein Beelitz-Bebersee-Vietmannsdorf area.

(3) [redacted]

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- (4) Information on the troop camp under construction in the Kutschlag-Klein Beelitz-Bebersee-Vietmannsdorf area was reported previously.

It is believed that this camp is to provide new quarters for the troop units training at the Templin troop training grounds, as the previous quarters of these units at the Hammelspring and Vogelsang camps will probably be included in the area of the barracks installations scheduled to be constructed there. This assumption is supported by the increased utilization for training of the area bordering on the new camp to the south and the recent establishment of a tank target range north of Gross Schoenbeck. The construction of a branch railroad line from Vogelsang, presumably as far as Bebersee was previously reported.

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